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ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

For Secondary School Boards and Principals

RE DATE OF THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS SEPTEMBER, 1944

The Minister of Education announces that a Board of Trustees may close any secondary school or grade under its control for a period not exceeding four weeks after the statutory date of re-opening, September 5, 1944, to permit the pupils of such school or grade to help in harvesting, processing, preserving and canning food. Every Board which closes a school or grade under this authority shall notify the Minister of the action it has taken.

As the nation's food supply is a matter of the utmost importance to ourselves and our allies, the Minister asks each Board to consider how it may best co-operate with food producing agencies, and urges it to take advantage of the authority herein granted to it, if it discovers that its pupils are needed to help in increasing our food supply.

Pupils who are enrolled in schools or grades which are not closed and who during the summer holidays were employed in essential work connected with the food supply and whose services are required further are asked to remain at their work during September. The principals and teachers of these pupils, who are rendering patriotic services, are expected to make special provisions for them on their return to school to enable them to overtake the school work they have missed. The principals will report the names of these pupils who are seeking departmental certificates so that they may be referred to the Special Revising Board for such action as may be possible if they should fail in the examinations of 1945. The policy being adopted in the larger schools of placing these pupils who were absent during part or all of September together in special forms is commended.

So that there may be no loss of grants to Boards principals and teachers shall register the attendance of the pupils of schools or grades closed and of pupils working under the conditions referred to in the preceding paragraph as if such pupils were actually in attendance at school.

Except as stated herein all elementary and secondary schools of the Provincial system will re-open on September 5, 1944.

TORONTO, April 4, 1944.